

Environmental Report
September 2021
Environmental Manager Teresa Sidwell

ERADICATION

During September our CDL licensed Sr. Environmental Officer Tim Filbeck and Officer Kelsey Spry used the grapple truck to remove furniture, construction debris, tires, electronics and metal illegally dumped at 7 sites on the side of county roads outside the city limits of Gentry, Avoca, Bella Vista, Garfield, Lowell and Siloam Springs.

It takes two staff members to clean up roadside dump sites with the grapple truck. Training, awareness of surroundings, PPE, and equipment inspections are all important to avoid hazards and to safely operate this heavy piece of equipment.



Pick Up Where You Play

In September we joined forces with Wonderful Waterways and hosted a litter cleanup in the Old Prairie Creek Road area (photos below). We encourage you to put **Sunday, October 17** on your calendar and join us in picking up litter at the Prairie Creek Campground & Recreation Area from **9:00 am until noon**.

One lucky registered volunteer will win a fishing trip for 2 on Beaver Lake!



Staff Learning & Development – Environmental law enforcement officers must be prepared for anything and capable of making sound decisions. To effectively serve the public, our officers continue to learn and develop their skills. With ongoing officer training, we will continue to serve the community at the highest level possible. Officer Sidwell attended online training on Lean Manufacturing and Environmental Performance. LEAN is widely used to increase process efficiency in industry and can be used to do the same for environmental performance. Sr. Officer Filbeck completed the Arkansas Crime Information Center refresher course online and obtained drone flight training. Officer Spry completed an online officer safety course.

Pollution Prevention (P2) Week Challenge 2021

Thank you for participating in our R6 P2 Week!
Continue P2 Best Management Practices year round!

- Purchase and switch out household lights with LEDs
- Take your recyclable goods to a nearby recycling center and compostable food waste to a nearby compost center
- Plant a variety of native plants in your garden
- R6 P2 Program challenges you to continue P2 Best Management Practices NOW and in the FUTURE!

Share your progress with the #R6P2Challenge



Please contact us with any questions or for additional information

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EDUCATION

Our division helps to make our county a safe and healthy place to live by educating adults and children about the importance of proper waste disposal. In 1991, each state agency, state college or university, county, city, and public school was mandated by the state to establish a recycling program for recyclables generated as a result of agency operations. Over the years attempts were made but in 2015 The Environmental Division successfully established the “Waste Not Want Not” office recycling program. Now paper, cardboard, aluminum cans, plastic, empty toner cartridges, cell phones and batteries are recycled and safely disposed of.

Contact us at 479-271-1083 if we can assist you with starting you start a recycling program for your office, school or community group.

The County Teaching Garden had Coreopsis (also known as Tickseed) in bloom in September. It is an easy to grow plant that loves full sun and thrives in many types of soil. These native perennials are tough plants that tolerate hot weather and are deer-resistant (pictured right). We use the rain garden to educate the public about alternative stormwater management using native plants. Stop by for a visit any time at the Benton County Road Department located on 14th Street in Bentonville.

We are looking for a volunteer group that would like to spend time caring for our native plant rain garden. This garden was installed in 2012 with a grant from the Illinois River Watershed Alliance. Please call us at 479-271-1083 if this is a good community service fit for your group.



The Special Waste Drop-off is provided by Benton County, the Cities and the Benton County Solid Waste District for recycling and disposal of large household items and household hazardous waste. Limited household items accepted free or for low cost.



2021 Convenience Center Bulky Waste Disposal											
	HAULS	TONS	WASTE COST	COMPACTION	HAULS	TONS	WASTE COST	COMPACTION	HAULS	TONS	COST
	CENTERTON	CENTERTON	CENTERTON	CENTERTON	ROGERS	ROGERS	ROGERS	ROGERS	SILOAM	SILOAM	SILOAM
JAN	9	17.38	\$2,225.68		5	15.05	\$1,473.00		0	-	\$104.32
FEB	10	24.67	\$2,753.10		9	21.08	\$2,444.62		0	-	\$106.94
MAR	19	36.43	\$4,737.49		18	43.54	\$4,843.54		1		\$474.52
APR	23	44.92	\$5,777.24		15	29.65	\$3,840.56		1	1.92	\$474.52
MAY	15	34.79	\$4,113.20		12	20.62	\$3,009.44		0	-	\$106.94
JUN	27	51.62	\$8,032.91		23	42.58	\$7,011.55		1	1.23	\$474.52
JUL	13	29.73	\$5,163.59	\$1,588.50	7	21.78	\$3,088.48	\$1,588.50	1	0.22	\$474.52
AUG	13	26.96	\$5,265.41	\$1,250.00	13	28.35	\$5,089.95	\$1,250.00	0	-	\$106.94
SEP	8	19.09	\$3,220.01	\$1,250.00	11	23.67	\$4,289.83	\$1,250.00	1	2.44	\$474.52
OCT											
NOV											
DEC											
YTD	137	285.59	\$41,288.63	\$4,088.50	113	246.32	\$35,090.97	\$4,088.50	5	5.81	\$2,797.74

2020 Convenience Center Bulky Waste Disposal									
	HAULS	TONS	COST	HAULS	TONS	COST	HAULS	TONS	COST
	CENTERTON	CENTERTON	CENTERTON	ROGERS	ROGERS	ROGERS	SILOAM	SILOAM	SILOAM
JAN	16	27.36	\$3,253.26	13	17.14	\$4,142.04	0	-	\$101.19
FEB	20	17.38	\$4,529.80	8	20.65	\$2,281.46	2	4.10	\$818.41
MAR	10	17.56	\$2,530.76	10	17.14	\$2,583.10	0	-	\$101.19
APR	3	5.56	\$495.05	3	6.77	\$866.53	1	2.55	\$462.94
MAY	23	53.27	\$6,593.48	17	45.60	\$4,782.64	0	-	\$104.32
JUN	34	64.02	\$8,573.85	15	35.98	\$4,016.25	2	2.04	\$821.55
JUL	27	52.39	\$6,904.60	17	48.97	\$5,042.95	1	1.48	\$462.97
AUG	20	49.35	\$5,304.91	13	35.53	\$3,897.08	1	2.89	\$462.94
SEP	14	28.87	\$3,616.39	13	31.63	\$3,462.80	2	1.74	\$821.55
	167	315.76	\$41,802.10	109	259.41	\$31,074.85	9	14.80	\$4,157.06

In 2021 waste disposal costs at the Special Waste Drop-Off have increased at the Centerton and Rogers locations due to a significant increase in rates. From May 2019 through May 2021 the County paid \$225.00 per dumpster hauled weighing up to 2 tons. Over 2 tons we were charged an additional \$42.00 for each ton. In June of 2021 the County started paying \$251.25 for each dumpster hauled and an additional charge of \$48.75 for every ton.

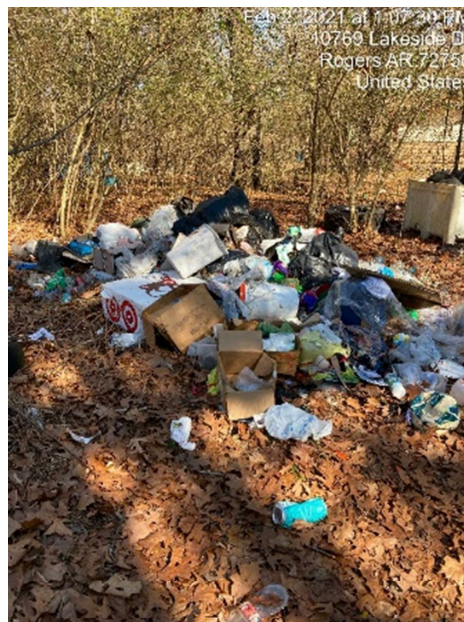
In order to offset some of the cost we have hired a company called Smash My Trash through the end of the year. They are a mobile compaction service that reduces waste volume in the dumpsters by as much as 70%. The Sheriff's Office inmate crews are also deconstructing mattresses to remove metal springs and other materials that can be recycled. Once mattresses are deconstructed any waste going to the landfill can be easily compacted and that means fewer dumpsters and money saved.

ENFORCEMENT

We have seen a substantial increase in reports of illegal dumping over the last couple of years. Each case requires at least one visit and as many as twelve site visits over the course of a year. In September we received 22 new reports of illegal waste disposal. Currently, we have 16 cases in the court system. Many properties in Benton County that have environmental violations took years to get that way. We strive to educate violators on proper waste disposal and give them time to rectify the problem as long as they work to make significant improvement.

The property pictured below is outside the city limits of Lowell on Rhoden Lane. The care-taker of the elderly property owner refused to remove the waste and the Environmental Division was forced to hire a contractor to clean up the property. There was (6) forty-yard dumpsters of solid waste removed and a lien will be placed on the property if the costs are not paid by the property owner.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



This property is outside the city limits of Bella Vista. The case was reported for several bags of trash left by previous tenants. The property owner cleaned up the waste and brought the property back into compliance within 30 days.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



The case below is outside the city limits of Rogers. It was suspected that the property had been abandoned with overgrown grass and trash in the front yard. The owner, who resides at the home cleaned up the property within one month.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



ENVIRONMENTAL OFFENSES and actions initiated in September.

OFFENSE TYPE	QTY
Burn (appliances)	0
Burn (auto bodies & parts)	0
Burn (construction debris)	0
Burn (electronics)	0
Burn (furniture)	0
Burn (general waste)	1
Burn (household garbage)	0
Burn (mobile home)	1
Burn (tires)	0
Bury (auto bodies & parts)	0
Bury (construction debris)	0
Bury (electronics)	0
Bury (furniture)	0
Bury (general waste)	0
Bury (household garbage)	1
Bury (mobile home)	0
Bury (trees)	0
Dumped by others (appliances)	2
Dumped by others (auto bodies & parts)	0
Dumped by others (construction debris)	1
Dumped by others (electronics)	1
Dumped by others (furniture)	4
Dumped by others (general waste)	3
Dumped by others (household garbage)	0
Dumped by others (metal)	1
Dumped by others (mobile home)	0
Dumped by others (tires)	3
Dumped by others (trees)	0
Dumped by self (appliances)	0
Dumped by self (auto bodies & parts)	0
Dumped by self (construction debris)	0
Dumped by self (electronics)	0
Dumped by self (furniture)	1
Dumped by self (general waste)	1
Dumped by self (household garbage)	1
Dumped by self (metal)	0
Dumped by self (mobile home)	0
Dumped by self (tires)	0
Dumped by self (trees)	0
OTHER	QTY
Agency Assist	0
Camera Installation	2
Extra Patrol	6
Littering	1
Sign installation	1
Stagnant Water	0

ACTIONS TAKEN THIS MONTH	QTY
NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS ISSUED	3
WARNINGS ISSUED	0
CITATIONS ISSUED	1
WARRANTS ISSUED	1
COURT APPEARANCES	0
CASE STATUS	QTY
CASES OPENED THIS MONTH	22
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES OPENED YTD	293

What does the Environmental Division Investigate?

Environmental Officers are limited to enforcement of solid waste violations in unincorporated Benton County and do not regulate inside any city limits.

We DO NOT investigate septic issues, structure fires, agricultural waste, dead animals such as pets or wild animals, or the illegal disposal of hazardous material.

Our division responds to violations of solid waste regulations that may include;

1. Construction or operation of a solid waste disposal facility or disposal site.
2. Dumping of solid waste upon property owned by another person.
3. Dumping of solid waste on the side of public roads or public property.
4. Solid waste on one's own property that can potentially create a public nuisance or health hazard.
5. Dumping of solid waste into a waterway.
6. Burning of solid waste.
7. Burying of solid waste.

